

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for generating a simulated network, the method comprising:

monitoring an actual managed network to determine a device personality of an actual network device of the managed network;

accessing a network discovery database comprising stored device personalities and associated device attributes for a plurality of device configurations;

comparing the device personality with the stored device personalities;

selecting one of the stored device configurations having a stored device personality that is the same as the device personality to determine the associated device attributes;

attaching the associated device attributes to the device personality to create a new device configuration; ~~and~~

automatically generating an updated build file for use by a network management simulator describing the simulated network based on the stored device configurations and the new device configuration; and

storing the updated build file in a data storage device.

2. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising

writing the stored device configurations and the new device configuration to the build file, including the device personalities and the associated device attributes.

3. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the stored device

personality comprises: a device type and a device operating system version.

4. (Currently amended) The method as recited in Claim ~~3~~ 1 further comprising:

~~selecting~~ identifying one of the stored device configurations having a stored device personality that is a closest match to the device personality;

~~automatically creating a new device personality; and~~

~~attaching the new device personality to the device attributes to create a new device configuration.~~

5. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein the device personality is compared with the stored device personality based on the device type and the device operating system ~~name and~~ version.

6. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein the device personality further includes device interface information comprising a number and type of ports.

7. (Previously presented Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 6 wherein the device interface information is determined according to a neighbor discovery protocol table for the device.

8. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 4 wherein one of the stored device configurations is selected according to a comparison of a closest device model

number.

9. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the device attributes comprise line speeds and event information.

10. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein the event information comprises an operational history including traps, system logs and fault logs.

11. (Currently amended) Software encoded in one or more computer-readable media and when executed by one or more processors operable to:

monitor an actual managed network to determine a device personality;

access a network discovery database comprising stored device personalities and associated device attributes for a plurality of device configurations;

compare the device personality with the stored device personalities;

select one of the stored device configurations having a stored device personality that is the same as a closest match to the device personality to determine the associated device attributes;

attach the associated device attributes to the device personality to create a new device configuration; ~~and~~

automatically generate an updated build file for use by a network management simulator describing the simulated network based on the stored device configurations and the new device configuration; and

process the build file to test a performance of the actual managed network.

12. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11 further operable to write the stored device configurations and the new device configuration to the build file, including the device personalities and the associated device attributes.

13. (Previously presented) The computer- readable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein the device personality comprises: a device type and a device operating system version.

14. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11 further operable to:

select identify one of the stored device configurations having a stored device personality that is a closest match to the same as the device personality;

~~create a new device personality; and~~

~~attach the new device personality to the device attributes to create a new device configuration.~~

15. (Previously presented) The computer- readable medium as recited in Claim 13 wherein the device personality is compared with the stored device personality based on the device type and the device operating system version.

16. (Previously presented) The computer- readable medium as recited in Claim 13 wherein the device personality further includes device interface information comprising a

number and type of ports.

17. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16 wherein the device interface information is determined according to a neighbor discovery protocol table for the device.

18. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 14 wherein one of the stored device configurations is selected according to a comparison of a closest device model number.

19. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein the device attributes comprise line speeds and event information.

20. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 19 wherein the event information comprises an operational history including traps, system logs and fault logs.

21. (Previously presented) A system for generating a simulated network, the system comprising:

means for monitoring an actual managed network to determine a device personality;

means for accessing a network discovery database comprising stored device personalities and associated device attributes for a plurality of device configurations;

means for comparing the device personality with the stored device personalities;

means for selecting one of the stored device configurations having a stored device personality that is the same as the device personality to determine the associated device attributes;

means for attaching the associated device attributes to the device personality to create a new device configuration;

means for automatically generating an updated build file for use by a network management simulator describing the simulated network based on the stored device configurations and the new device configuration.

22. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 21 further comprising:

means for writing the stored device configurations and the new device configuration to the build file, including the device personalities and the associated device attributes.

23. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein the device personality comprises: a device type and a device operating system.

24. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 21 further comprising:

means for selecting one of the stored device configurations having a stored device personality that is a closest match to the device personality;

~~means for creating a new device personality; and~~

~~means for attaching the new device personality to the device attributes to create a new device configuration.~~

25. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 23 wherein the device personality is compared with the stored device personality based on the device type and the device operating system.

26. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 23 wherein the device personality further includes device interface information comprising a number and type of ports.

27. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 26 wherein the device interface information is determined according to a neighbor discovery protocol table for the device.

28. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 24 wherein one of the stored device configurations is selected according to a comparison of a closest device model number.

29. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein the device attributes comprise line speeds and event information.

30. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 29 wherein the event information comprises an operational history including traps, system logs and fault logs.